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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9
10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – SAN JOSE DIVISION

11 LESLIE SMITH,

CASE NO.

12 Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:

13 v.
14 Experian Information Solutions, Inc.;
15 Equifax, Inc.; TransUnion, LLC; American
16 Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank;
17 HSBC Bank USA, National Association;
18 Wescom Central Credit Union; Bank of
19 America, National Association and DOES
1 through 100 inclusive,

1. Violation of Fair Credit Reporting Act;
2. Violation of California Consumer Credit
Reporting Agencies Act

20 Defendants.

21 COMES NOW Plaintiff LESLIE SMITH, an individual, based on information and belief,
22 to allege as follows:

23 **INTRODUCTION**

24 1. This case arises under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) and the
25 California Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act, California Civil Code §1785.25(a).
26 Plaintiff seeks redress for the unlawful and deceptive practices committed by the Defendants in
27 connection with their inaccurate reporting of Plaintiff's debt included in Plaintiff's Chapter 7
28 bankruptcy.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

2. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by this reference the allegations in each and every paragraph above, fully set forth herein.

3. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 1367, and 15 U.S.C. § 1681

4. This venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Plaintiff filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection on November 13, 2014 in order to reorganize and repair Plaintiff's credit. Plaintiff's Chapter 7 plan of financial reorganization was discharged on March 2, 2015.

6. On June 6, 2015 Plaintiff ordered a three bureau report from Equifax, Inc. to ensure proper reporting by Plaintiff's creditors.

7. Plaintiff noticed several tradelines all reporting misleading and inaccurate account information.

8. Defendant American Express Company was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 3499, with late payments, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

9. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 4357, as in collections and charged off, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

10. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 4388, as in collections and charged off, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

11. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 4147, as in collections and charged off, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered

12. Defendant HSBC Bank USA, National Association was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 3000, with late payments, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

13. Defendant Wescom Central Credit Union was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 2630, with late payments, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

14. Defendant Bank of America, National Association was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in 64729, as in collections, despite a chapter 7 discharge being entered.

15. In response to the perceived inaccuracies on Plaintiff's credit report, Plaintiff disputed the inaccurate tradelines via certified mail with Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC.

16. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each credit reporting agency sent each Defendant notification that plaintiff was disputing the accuracy of what it was reporting to them.

17. Defendants American Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank; HSBC Bank USA, National Association; Wescom Central Credit Union and Bank of America, National Association failed to conduct a reasonable investigation and continued to report falsely to Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and TransUnion, LLC misleading and inaccurate account information as identified above in Paragraphs 8 – 14.

18. Alternatively, Experian Information Solutions, Inc. failed to perform its own reasonable investigation and failed to correct the inaccuracies and failed to note that Plaintiff disputed the information. After the statutory time period passed for Experian Information Solutions, Inc. to update the report Plaintiff pulled a second credit report and noticed that no updates had been made to the tradeline in dispute.

19. Alternatively, Equifax, Inc. failed to perform its own reasonable investigation and failed to correct the inaccuracies and failed to note that Plaintiff disputed the information. After the statutory time period passed for Equifax, Inc. to update the report Plaintiff pulled a second credit report and noticed that no updates had been made to the tradeline in dispute.

20. Alternatively, TransUnion, LLC failed to perform its own reasonable investigation and failed to correct the inaccuracies and failed to note that Plaintiff disputed the information. After the statutory time period passed for TransUnion, LLC to update the report Plaintiff pulled a second credit report and noticed that no updates had been made to the tradeline in dispute.

21. On March 18, 2016 Plaintiff ordered a second three bureau report from Equifax, Inc. to ensure the accounts that were in dispute were being properly reported.

22. Plaintiff's accounts were disputed but the Defendants; Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and TransUnion, LLC failed to correct the misleading and inaccurate statements on the account within the statutory time frame or, alternatively, at all.

23. The credit bureaus have an obligation to delete the tradeline when a response is not received by the furnisher within the statutory time frame.

24. The actions of the Defendants as alleged herein are acts in violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b).

25. The actions of the Defendants as alleged herein are acts in violation of the consumer credit reporting agencies act California Civil Code § 1785.25(a).

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Fair Credit Reporting Act
15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b))
(Against Defendants and Does 1-100)

Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC- Failure to Reinvestigate Disputed Information.

26. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph above as though fully set forth herein.

27. After Plaintiff disputed the accounts mentioned above, Defendants Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC were required to conduct a reasonable investigation and to delete any information that was not accurate. In doing so, Defendants were required to send all relevant information to the furnishers which they did not do. Defendants failed to correct the misleading and or inaccurate statements on the account within the statutory time frame or at all.

American Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank; HSBC Bank USA, National Association; Wescom Central Credit Union and Bank of America, National Association – Reporting Inaccurate Information to Defendants Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and TransUnion, LLC and Failure to Reinvestigate.

28. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph above as though fully set forth herein.

29. 15 USC 1681s-2(b) prohibits furnishers from providing any information relating to a

1 consumer to any consumer reporting agency if the person knows or has reasonable cause to
2 believe that the information is inaccurate or misleading and requires a furnisher to update and
3 or correct inaccurate information after being notified by a consumer reporting agency of a
4 dispute by a consumer.

5 30. Defendants American Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank; HSBC Bank USA,
6 National Association; Wescom Central Credit Union and Bank of America, National
7 Association violated section 1681s-2(b) by failing to conduct a reasonable investigation and re-
reporting misleading and inaccurate account information regarding Plaintiff's accounts.
8 Defendants Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC
9 provided notice to the defendants that Plaintiff was disputing the inaccurate and misleading
10 information but each of the Defendants failed to conduct a reasonable investigation of the
11 information as required by the FCRA.

12 31. Specifically, Defendant American Express Company (account beginning in 3499)
13 supplied inaccurate and misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting,
14 after Plaintiff's chapter 7 filing and discharge, that the account was with late payments, despite
15 Plaintiff's chapter 7 discharge.

16 32. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank (account beginning in 4357) supplied inaccurate and
17 misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting, after Plaintiff's chapter
18 7 filing and discharge, that the account was in collections and charged off, despite Plaintiff's
19 chapter 7 discharge.

20 33. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank (account beginning in 4388) supplied inaccurate and
21 misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting, after Plaintiff's chapter
22 7 filing and discharge, that the account was in collections and charged off, despite Plaintiff's
23 chapter 7 discharge.

24 34. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank (account beginning in 4147) supplied inaccurate and
25 misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting, after Plaintiff's chapter
26 7 filing and discharge, that the account was in collections and charged off, despite Plaintiff's
27 chapter 7 discharge.

28 35. Defendant HSBC Bank USA, National Association (account beginning in 3000)
supplied inaccurate and misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting,

1 after Plaintiff's chapter 7 filing and discharge, that the account was with late payments, despite
2 Plaintiff's chapter 7 discharge.

3 36. Defendant Wescom Central Credit Union (account beginning in 2630) supplied
4 inaccurate and misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting, after
5 Plaintiff's chapter 7 filing and discharge, that the account was with late payments, despite
6 Plaintiff's chapter 7 discharge.

7 37. Defendant Bank of America, National Association (account beginning in 64729)
8 supplied inaccurate and misleading information to the Credit Reporting Agencies by reporting,
9 after Plaintiff's chapter 7 filing and discharge, that the account was in collections, despite
Plaintiff's chapter 7 discharge.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 (Violation of California Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act
California Civil Code § 1785.25(a))
12 (Against Defendants and Does 1-100)

13 **American Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank; HSBC Bank USA, National
14 Association; Wescom Central Credit Union and Bank of America, National Association –
Reporting Inaccurate Information to Defendants Experian Information Solutions, Inc.;
15 Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC.**

16 38. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph
17 above as though fully set forth herein.

18 39. Defendants American Express Company; JPMorgan Chase Bank; HSBC Bank USA,
19 National Association; Wescom Central Credit Union and Bank of America, National
20 Association intentionally and knowingly reported misleading and inaccurate account
information to Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and TransUnion, LLC.

21 40. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants re-reported misleading and inaccurate account
22 information, as stated in paragraphs 8-14 and 31-37 to Experian Information Solutions, Inc.
23 and TransUnion, LLC in violation of California Civil Code § 1785.25(a).

24 41. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendants had reason to know that the information reported
25 on Plaintiff's accounts were misleading and inaccurate.

26 42. Plaintiff alleges that the bankruptcy notices, disputes letters from all three credit
27 reporting agencies, the consumer data industry resource guide, and results of its investigation
28 should have provided notice to Defendants of its misleading and inaccurate reporting.

43. Defendants failed to notify Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and TransUnion, LLC that the information Defendants re-reported was inaccurate before the end of 30 business days, in violation of California Civil Code § 1785.25(a).

44. Defendants' communications of false information, and repeated failures to investigate, and correct their inaccurate information and erroneous reporting were done knowingly, intentionally, and in reckless disregard for their duties and Plaintiff's rights.

45. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful and untrue communications, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages including but not limited to inability to properly reorganize under Chapter 7, reviewing credit reports from all three consumer reporting agencies, time reviewing reports with counsel, sending demand letters, diminished credit score, and such further expenses in an amount to be determined at trial.

46. Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment as hereinafter set forth.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- a. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to stop Defendants from engaging in the conduct described above;
 - b. Award statutory and actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n and California Civil Code § 1785.31;
 - c. Award punitive damages in order to deter further unlawful conduct pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n; and California Civil Code § 1785.31
 - d. Award attorney's fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n & o; California Civil Code § 1785.31;
 - e. For determination by the Court that Creditor's policies and practices are unlawful and in willful violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681n, et seq.; and

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1 f. For determination by the Court that Creditor's policies and practices are
2 unlawful and in negligent violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681o;

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4 Dated: April 22, 2016

5 By:

6 **SAGARIA LAW, P.C.**
7 */s/ Elliot Gale, Esq.*
8 Scott Sagaria, Esq.
9 Elliot Gale, Esq.
10 Attorneys for Plaintiff

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

11 Plaintiff hereby demands trial of this matter by jury.
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14 Dated: April 22, 2016

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16 **SAGARIA LAW, P.C.**
17 */s/ Elliot Gale, Esq.*
18 Scott Sagaria, Esq.
19 Elliot Gale, Esq.
20 Attorneys for Plaintiff